

## *Section 2: Additional Questions and Answers*

**Purpose:** The following questions and approved answers are intended to be used for face-to-face interactions between the Navy, and partner agency representatives with the public—including news media representatives. The responses can be used verbatim but are more effective when described in your own words. As this project progresses, the communication team may recommend additional Q&A or modification to what's on the existing list. The Navy will approve final responses and issue a list of new Q&As as necessary. For quick reference, questions and answers are labeled numerically as “Q#” for each question and answers as “A#”.

### ***Radiological Data Inconsistencies by Tetra Tech***

Q1. How did Tetra Tech make the sample screening mistake and how will it be prevented from occurring again?

A1. As the Navy understands it, some Tetra Tech field personnel misrepresented samples in order to ensure analysis results would be below cleanup criteria. Several agencies have begun investigations into the extent of malicious behavior by field personnel.

The Navy provides quality assurance of contractors by regular field work oversight and rigorous review of documentation submitted by all contractors. Through this review, the Navy was able to identify the misrepresentation of samples, prompting Tetra Tech to take corrective action, remove personnel from the site, and resample the appropriate areas with 100% Navy oversight. For additional quality assurance, a third-party contractor has been hired to monitor that soil samples are collected and documented properly. An independent contractor is evaluating questionable soil sampling data that may require additional confirmation sampling. The Navy will continue to monitor soil sample results for any suspect data and take appropriate action.

Q2. Does Tetra Tech do work at any other installations beside Hunters Point?

A2. Yes, Tetra Tech is a group of companies with different missions. Tetra Tech ECI is the company that performs environmental cleanup, notably rad site cleanup at the Shipyard. Tetra Tech EMI is a company that provides administrative program support and public outreach support (such as running public meetings). Several of the Bay Area bases have used both companies.

Q3. What enforcement action, if any, has the Navy taken against the contractor Tetra Tech after the company admitted it misrepresented soil sample data on Hunters Point?

A3. The Navy does not have authority to take an enforcement action. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is the government agency responsible for inspection, enforcement, and emergency response for nuclear materials. The NRC concluded their investigation in July 2016. The NRC issued a notice of violation to Tetra Tech which is publicly available. The Navy continues to support on-going investigations.

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Q4. Is Tetra Tech under investigation by the Navy or the federal government?

A4. It is the Navy's policy not to discuss any potential investigations or similar legal matters.

Q5. Do we know if Tetra Tech is still working on the cleanup? If so, how much longer are they scheduled to be at work, and if not, when did they cease? If they are not, who is the current contractor?

A5. Tetra Tech is not currently conducting field work. Several contractors work at Hunters Point, amongst them are: AMEC, Battelle, Gilbane, CH2M, B & B Environmental Safety, Inc., and CB&I.

Q6. In July, the Navy said it had identified anomalous soil samples that Tetra Tech had performed. Do we know if any more have been found since?

A6. A small group of firms with extensive radiological experience, capabilities, and expertise has been hired to perform a full review of past radiological work completed by Tetra Tech EC. Additional investigations are ongoing.

Q7. Do we know when the Navy hopes to hire a third-party contractor to check Tetra Tech's work, and do we know what they will check, exactly, and do we know when they may expect to finish?

A7. An independent contractor consisting of a group of technical experts with extensive radiological expertise that have no association with TtEC are currently reviewing Tetra Tech EC radiological data. Preliminary findings are expected by the end of Spring 2017 and recommendations will then be made to address any questionable data, if identified.

Q8. At this point, when does the Navy hope to transfer the next parcel of land over to FivePoint, and what parcel might it be?

A8. Parcel B-1, Parcel G, and Parcel B IR7/18 are scheduled to be transferred in the Spring 2018, after the review of Tetra Tech EC radiological data is complete.

Q9. Has the Navy utilized a separate contractor to conduct third-party quality control for radiological work at Hunters Point?

A9. Yes, a third-party contractor has been hired to monitor that soil samples are collected and properly documented. Additionally, a team of contractors with extensive expertise in radiological cleanup have been hired to conduct a thorough evaluation of soil sampling data from Tetra Tech to determine if the results are dependable.

Q10. Who is this team of experienced contractors?

A10. The current list of firms include: Batelle, Cabrera, Perma-Fix, SC&A, Oregon State University, and CH2M. The Navy may add additional firms to this list as necessary.

Q11. Why won't the Navy let Tetra Tech respond to our request for an interview?

A11. The contracted company is not in the position to speak on behalf of the government or respond to media inquiry for work on behalf of the government.

***Former Tetra Tech Employee Sampling Claims***

Q12. Were any of these buildings recently rescanned (in year 2016)? Buildings 146 and 439 and Buildings 130 and 351A?

A12. Yes, portions of Buildings 146, 439, 130, and 351A were re-surveyed in 2015.

Q13. What were the results of the rescans?

A13. Results from the re-surveyed buildings indicate that the measured radiological activity was below regulatory levels and presents no health concerns to the public or environment.

Q14. Were any of the buildings at Hunters Point recently rescanned (in year 2016)?

A14. Yes, a plan was developed to re-survey sections of Buildings 271 and 406 in 2016 with concurrence from federal and California state regulators. Building sections were re-surveyed as a quality control measure to verify that past work was performed adequately.

Q15. Was radiological contamination detected in any of those buildings? If so, which ones?

A15. Yes, low level radiological concentrations were detected. Results from the re-surveys of Buildings 271 and 406 were between 0.001 millirem per year (mrem/y) and 0.087 mrem/y above background. These levels present no health concerns to the public or environment. This dose is less than the radiation exposure that someone would receive during a two-hour airline flight.

Q16. Who performed the rescans? Which agencies oversaw the rescans?

A16. Very small areas of contamination were identified and are being evaluated.

***General Radiation/Radiological Question***

Q17. What do you mean that there is radiation in everyday living?

A17. We are exposed to radiation every day from natural sources (such as the sun, some foods, soils/rocks, and some natural materials used in construction). There are also routine exposures from medical examinations (such as dental and diagnostic x-rays).

Q18. How do the radiation levels at Hunters Point compare to everyday radiation exposure?

A18. Some examples of everyday radiation exposure are watching television (1 mrem per year), flying in an airplane (1 mrem for every 2 hours in the air), getting a dental x-ray (1 mrem per bitewing X-ray), exposure to the sun at sea level (24 mrem per year) or smoking 1.5 packs of cigarettes per day for a year (1,300 mrem per year). The amount of exposure from non-natural radiation sources that may be found at Hunters Point is less than the amount of radiation you receive in everyday living.

Q19. Am I at risk from radiation exposure?

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A19. Everyone is exposed to radiation naturally on a daily basis regardless of location or lifestyle. The radiation exposures that the Navy is investigating are less than or comparable to the amount of radiation received by the average person on an average day.

Q20. What is the unit “mrem” that is used when talking about radiation exposure?

A20. Rem is the dosage for the biological effects of ionizing radiation for humans. Rem is a unit of measure for biological effects on the body from radiation. A millirem (mrem) is 1/1,000th of a Rem. These units are often used in reference to time, such as mrem per hour.

Q21. Who sets radiation protection standards?

A21. Radiation protection standards are established by many federal and state agencies (e.g., Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Public Health). The Navy works with all of these agencies and more to ensure compliance with all radiation protection requirements.

Q22. Who is in charge of the surveys?

A22. The Navy is responsible for conducting the surveys; however, all work is being overseen and coordinated with the California Department of Public Health and is further reviewed by U.S. EPA, the City and County of San Francisco and other regulatory agencies.

Q23. I live in Parcel B and am worried about possible contamination. How safe is it to be there?

A23. The current artist studios on Parcel B were formerly used for barracks, schools, a cafeteria, and non-industrial activities. Consequently, these buildings would not contain contamination from former industrial activities at the Shipyard.

In 2002, US EPA conducted a radiological-scan survey of navigable roads of the Shipyard including near the Artist Studios and Building 606. All radiation detected during the scan was found to be naturally occurring at levels consistent with natural background levels which are 24 mrem per year in San Francisco. Regulators found Buildings 104, 115, 116, 117, 125, and 606 suitable for lease in 2008.

Q24. I am worried about breathing in contaminated dust. What is being done to protect nearby residents?

A24. The Navy has procedures in place at the Shipyard to ensure public safety as outlined in the Dust Control Plan. The work site perimeter includes air monitoring equipment to ensure residents, tenants, workers, and the public are protected.

Air quality control measures include:

- Water misting to wet down work areas and roads
- Coating piles of soil with a biodegradable polymer to minimize windblown dust.
- Enforcing a 15 miles per hour (mph) speed limit basewide and 5 mph in active work areas.
- Covering all truck beds containing soil.

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- Placing raised strips to vibrate truck tires and loosen soil caught in the treads at exits.
- Providing a tire wash station to remove excess dirt and dust from truck tires.
- Providing daily street sweeping,
- Halting operations when conditions become too windy.
- Monitoring air quality and groundwater upwind and downwind of cleanup sites.

Q25. Should I be concerned about exposure to any toxic and harmful chemicals in groundwater?

A25. Contaminated groundwater has been identified in specific areas low elevation areas of the Shipyard. It is not possible for residents, tenants, workers or the general public to come in contact with contaminated groundwater since it under the soils surface.

Municipal potable water is piped to existing residences and will be supplied to future residences for drinking, showering, and other uses is from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

### ***Cleanup/Investigation/Data Questions***

Q26. What is a radiologically controlled site?

A26. A radiologically controlled site is an area where access is limited to individuals with the appropriate training and protective equipment to minimize potential exposure to radioactive material.

Q27. Who determines what levels of radiation are considered "safe"?

A27. Radiation protection standards are established by many federal and state agencies (e.g. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Department of Public Health). The Navy works with all of these agencies and more to ensure compliance with all radiation protection requirements.

Q28. Are radiation levels protective of my baby?

A28. Yes, the established limits are calculated to protect individuals of all ages and genders at the Shipyard.

Q29. When are you going to start the data evaluation process?

The data evaluation process has begun and is expected to be completed in 2018.

Q29. How long will the process take?

The data evaluation is expected to take over a year in order to evaluate the data, conduct verification surveys and samples, and report the results.

Q30. What is involved in the process?

The process involves running statistical tests on all of the radiological data that was collected by Tetra Tech, conduct a thorough review of reports and field notes, collect verification sampling and resurveying, and reporting results.

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Q30. When will it be complete?

A30. The data review and collection will be completed in 2018.

Q31. Why has it taken so long to start data evaluation process?

A31. Since the discovery of the fraudulent sampling activities, the Navy has consistently taken action in consultation with regulatory agencies to ensure the public's safety. The Navy immediately did a review of Tetra Tech's sample data to identify areas that were not sampled adequately and oversaw re-sampling efforts by Tetra Tech to resolve the problem. Subsequent allegations from former Tetra Tech employees prompted the Navy and regulatory agencies to conduct a thorough review of all radiological sites that were remediated by Tetra Tech. Over 2 million pieces of data are included in the review, which takes several months to evaluate thoroughly.

Q32. CM2H HILL was sued by the community of Hunters Point because it did not conduct air monitoring properly to prevent the migration of toxic dust into Bayview Hunters Point. How then can the community have any confidence that the company is capable and has the integrity to evaluate false or questionable data from Tetra Tech?

Q32. When CH2M discovered this problem, it immediately notified Lennar, and the Air Quality Control District. The individual responsible was removed from the company and processes were corrected so that a similar situation would not happen again.

The events that occurred during the asbestos monitoring was due to one individual not doing their job. We have changed our processes whereby we no longer allow field work to be conducted by a single person; all work is done in teams. All work is carefully planned with various multiple experts involved.

Further, for this effort, CH2M was one member of a team of companies and other entities with the key roles lead spread among the various firms. For example, the Senior Health Physicist leading the effort is with Cabrera, the statistician leading the analysis is with SC&A, and a key radiological expert is with Perma-fix. In addition, the regulatory agencies and the Mayor's Office are part of the Tiger Team addressing the issue. Every detail of the work is receiving continuous scrutiny and oversight.

Q33. Can I see the results of all of your testing?

A33. The Navy will prepare a report with the results of the thorough data evaluation and verification sampling. The report will be posted on the Shipyard website for public to access. We anticipate the report will be ready in early 2018.

Q33. How can you convince me that the site is being cleaned up without endangering the health and safety of current/future Bayview residents?

A34. The process for reviewing and working with regulatory officials is complex, comprehensive, and protective of public health and safety. There are a multitude of guidelines, regulatory

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requirements at the federal, state and local levels. In addition, there is a great deal of coordination between Federal and State agencies to remediate the Shipyard. The Navy's approach has been, in most situations, to select the most conservative clean-up levels for a site.

Q34. How can the Navy be certain that Containment (Durable covers) and Institutional control (restrictions on planting vegetables in soil) protect public health?

A34. Annual inspections and repairs of the containment (such as durable covers) and institutional controls are required indefinitely. In addition, as required by the Superfund law, Five Year Reviews will be conducted for all sites with contamination remaining in place. Five Year Reviews are conducted by the Navy, in coordination with regulatory agencies, to evaluate whether the remedy remains protective.

### ***Communications Questions***

Q35. How come there are no uniformed Navy personnel at these meetings?

A35. Hunters Point is no longer an operational naval facility. So while no “uniforms” are here, the Navy is committed to completing the cleanup and property transfers of this base.

Q36. Who should people talk to if they have questions or concerns? How will you address public comments?

A36. Questions can be directed to Derek Robinson, Navy BRAC Environmental Coordinator for Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, by calling (619) 524-6026 or derek.j.robinson1@navy.mil, or to Dr. Kathryn Higley, Community Technical Liaison, at (541) 737-0675 or kathryn.higley@oregonstate.edu Information will also be provided through the BRAC PMO website located at [https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac\\_bases/california/former\\_shipyard\\_hunters\\_point.html](https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/california/former_shipyard_hunters_point.html) as well as at public meetings and in newsletters.

Q37. Will the Navy regularly attend my group's public town hall meetings?

A37. The Navy offers multiple outreach opportunities throughout the year to share information with the public via site tours, public meetings and the Shipyard website are our primary means of updating the public. You are always welcome to participate.

Q38. Why won't the Navy host a town-hall meeting so others can hear what I have to say?

A38. The Navy has found that the most productive forum for sharing information with the public is through an Open House style meeting wherein experts are available to respond at each poster board station to individual questions. This format allows us to answer more questions in a shorter period of time than does a town hall meeting.

Q39. Is the city of San Francisco willing to empanel a citizen's advisory committee to protect the community's interest at the Shipyard?

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A39. The city of San Francisco has a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). The Navy's next informational meeting will take place at a future CAC meeting.